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The Drive

A NASA strategic radiation protection guideline is the:

“Demonstration of shielding concepts providing radiation protection focusing on light-weight multi-functional structure-capable materials that can provide GCR/SPE protection while providing other functionalities such as thermal insulation, structural integrity, and/or MMOD protection.”

The Challenges

Effective shielding against the combined effects of GCRs and SEPs can be mass prohibitive

Shielding effectiveness of new, potential shielding materials (or combinations thereof) is not well characterized

Little data to guide dose and risk assessment models

Known, large uncertainties and variabilities in radiobiological effects

Other uncertainties and variabilities? (e.g., in generalization and scale-up of shielding or protection solutions)

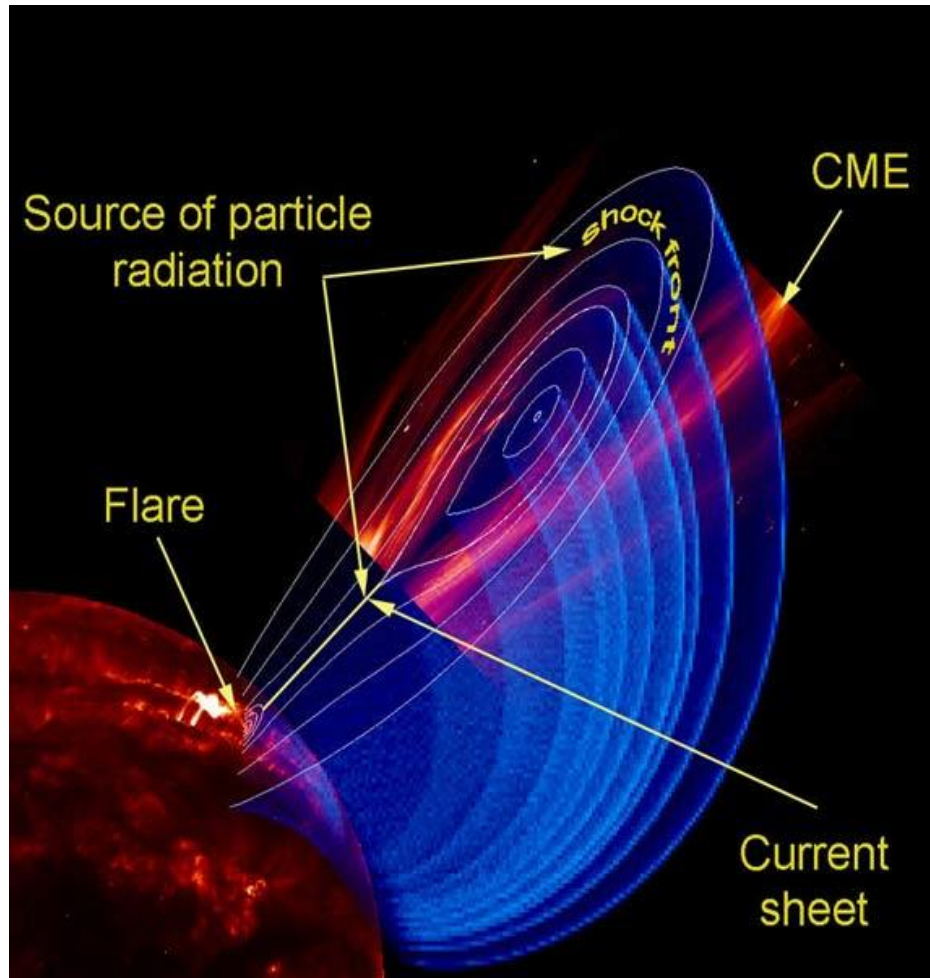
NASA's technology roadmaps call for an **integrated approach** in radiation protection



- **TA02 and TA03:** coordination with radiation protection measures for nuclear propulsion and power systems;
- **TA03:** survivability of solar power cells and other power system components in extreme radiation environments;
- **TA06:** astronaut health;
- **TA08:** instrumentation for particles, fields, and waves;
- **TA10:** use of boron nitride nanotubes for protection against radiation; and
- **TA12:** materials and structures for radiation shielding.

No one center or group (in academia or in the private sector) can realistically implement this integrated approach on its own!

Two main sources of ionizing radiation:

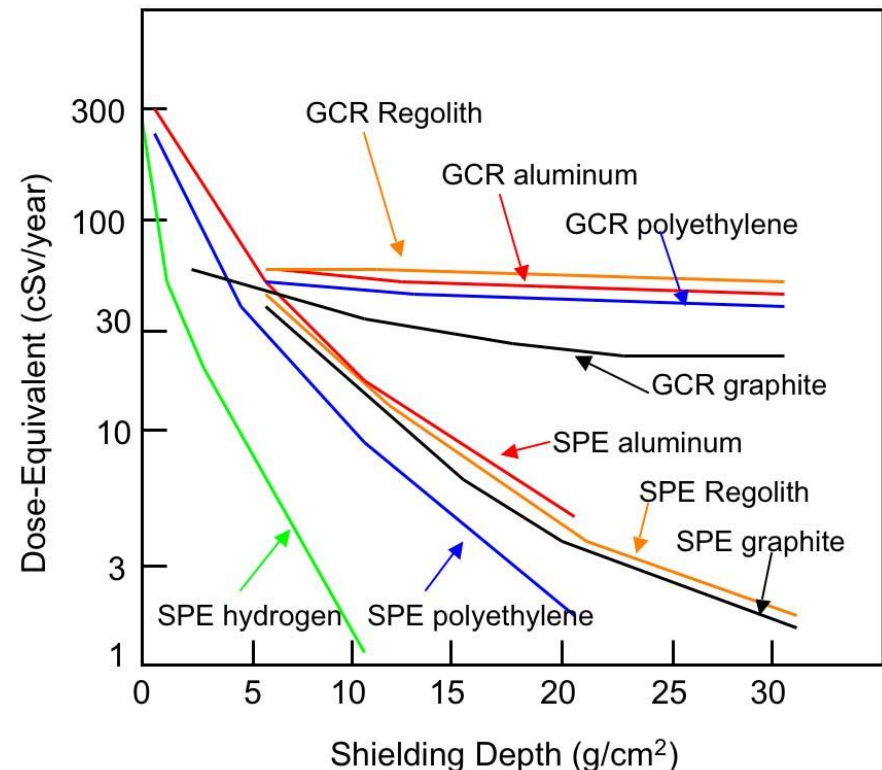


Materials vary in their ability to shield against GCR nuclei

Polymeric based materials tend to be most effective - but their structural and safety properties remain poor or poorly known

Aluminum, like all metals, is a **poor GCR shield**

Regolith is not that much better either!



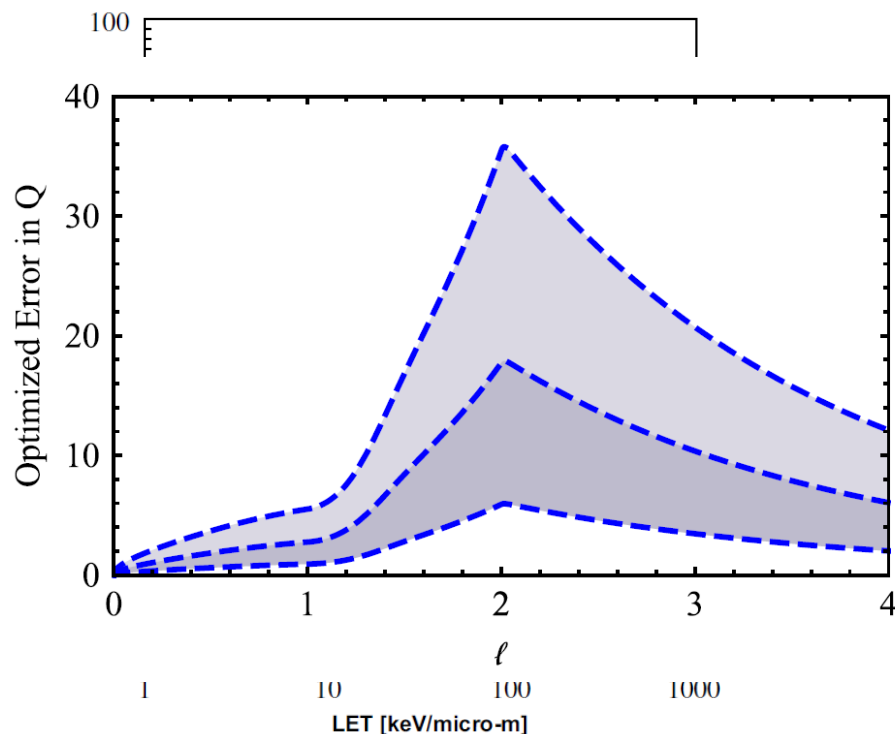
Large uncertainties -and variabilities- in the radiation quality factor is seen as a main hindrance toward reliable dose and risk estimates

These can be captured mathematically if we model the quality factor as an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process,

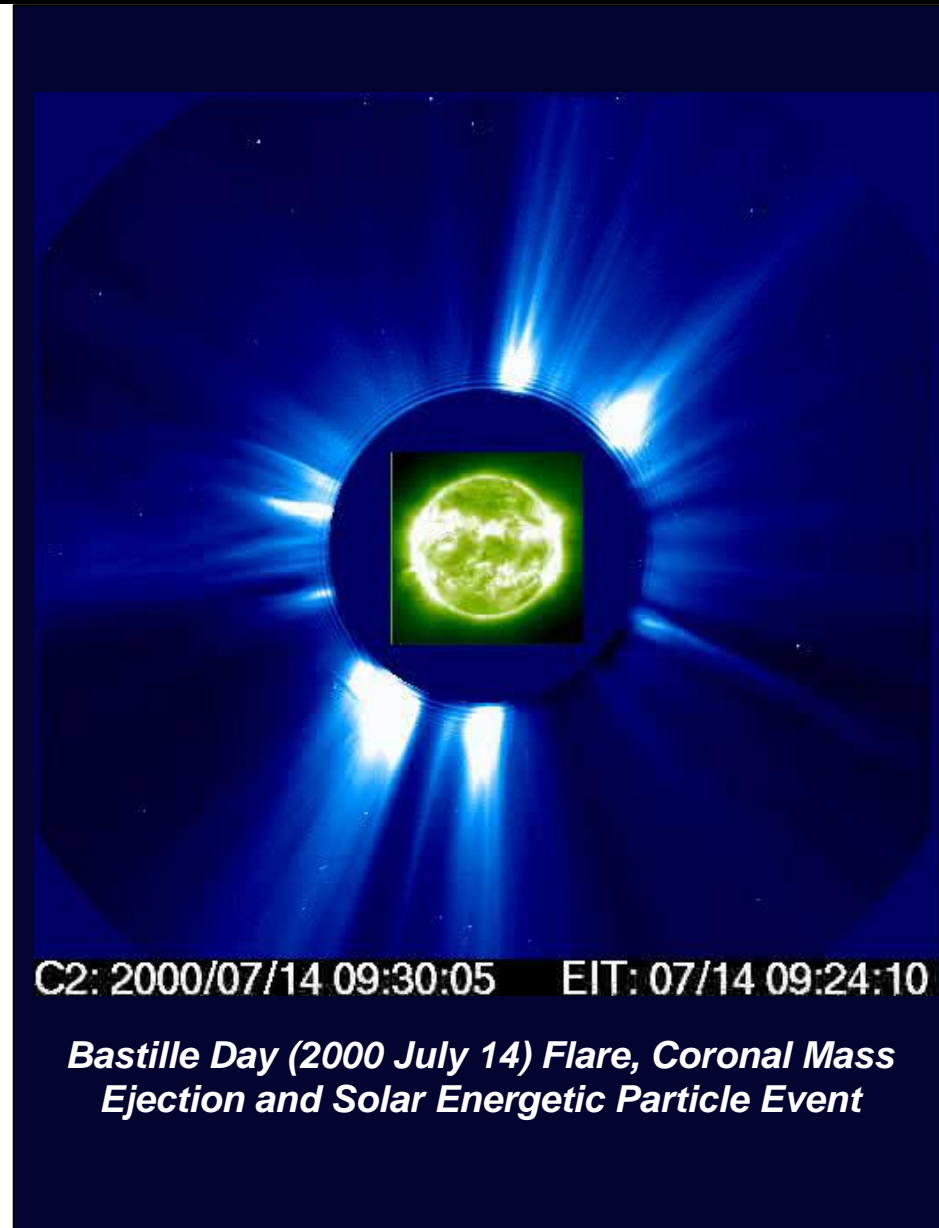
$$dQ = C(\ell)Q d\ell + \sqrt{D(\ell)} dW$$

with a corresponding PDF of the form,

$$f_Q(Q, \ell; Q_0, 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi q_1(\ell)}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{[Q \exp(q_2(\ell)) - Q_0]^2}{4q_1(\ell)} + q_2(\ell) \right\}$$



- Monitoring & Detection
 - protons- TaSEPS
 - neutrons- ANS
- Forecasting
 - Mag4
- Modeling & Simulation
 - Geant4-based
- Radiation-Smart Structures
 - Geant4-informed



- Marshall scientists and engineers develop state-of-the-art charged particle and neutral particle detectors suitable for the harsh environments of space

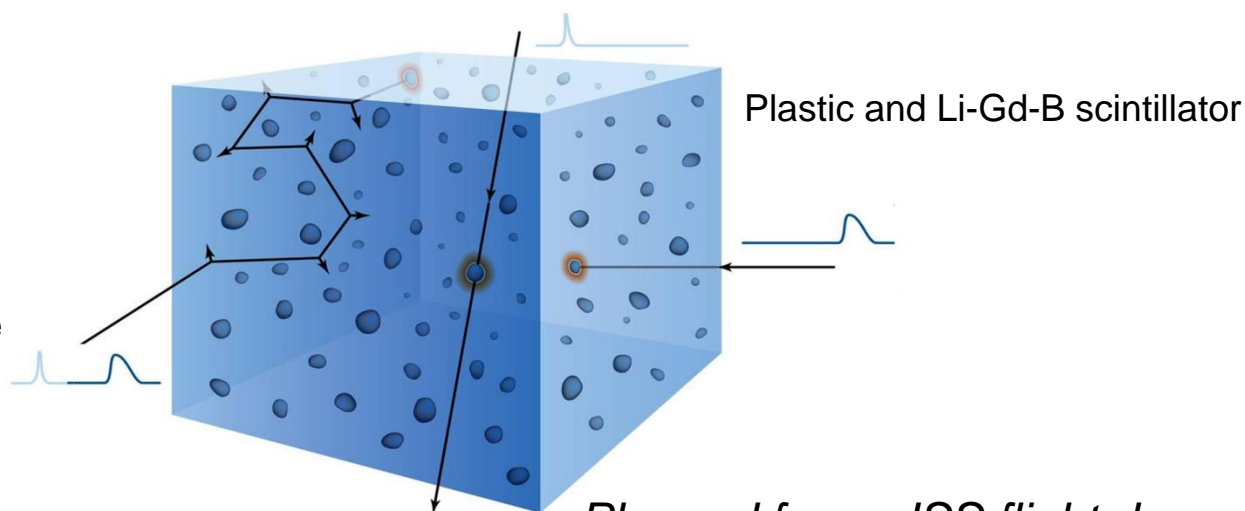
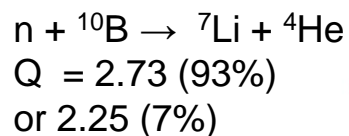
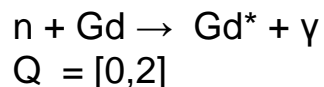
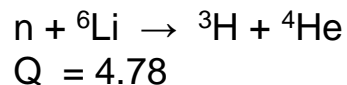
-Trapped and Solar Energetic Particle Spectrometer (TaSEPS): TaSEPS is a compact wide dynamic range charged particle spectrometer for measuring trapped and solar energetic protons by combining scintillation and Cherenkov techniques in a single CsI crystal that extends the dynamic range and reduces the mass and power requirements

Planned for an ISS flight demonstration



- Marshall scientists and engineers develop state-of-the-art charged particle and neutral particle detectors suitable for the harsh environments of space:

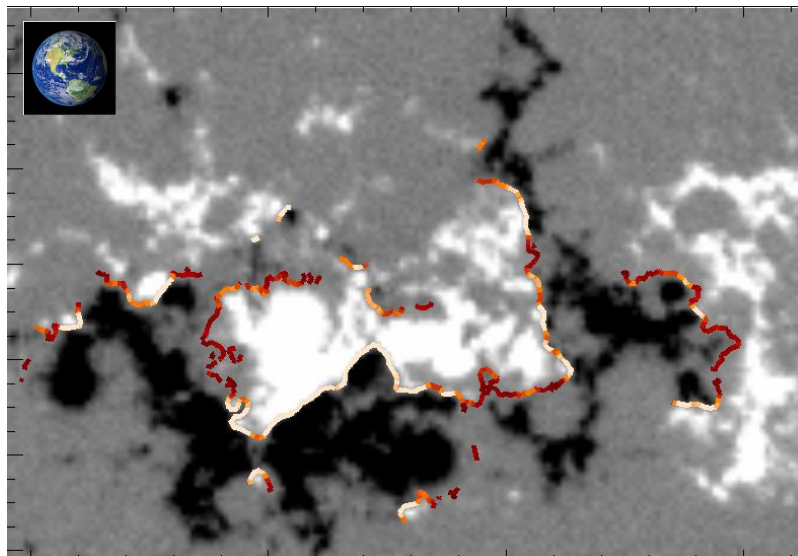
-Advanced Neutron Spectrometer (ANS): is a new instrument technique being developed to meet NASA's requirements to monitor the radiation exposure due to secondary neutrons for future crewed missions. New instrument designs are needed to achieve the measurement performance requirements that fit within the resource limits of exploration missions beyond Earth's protective magnetic field



Planned for an ISS flight demonstration

- Marshall scientists and engineers developed an automated prediction system that downloads and analyzes magnetograms from the HMI (Helioseismic and Magnetic Imager) instrument on NASA SDO (Solar Dynamics Observatory), and then automatically converts the rate (or probability) of major flares (M- and X-class), Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), and Solar Energetic Particle Events

[Present cadence of new forecasts: **96 min**; Vector magnetogram actual cadence: **12 min**]



500 G
-500 G

0.1 G/km
0 G/km

When the transverse gradient of the vertical (or line-of-sight) magnetic field is large, there is more free-energy stored in the magnetic field

For each Active Region:
The integral of the gradient along the neutral line is the free-energy proxy

A magnetogram of an active region on the Sun

June 26, 2013

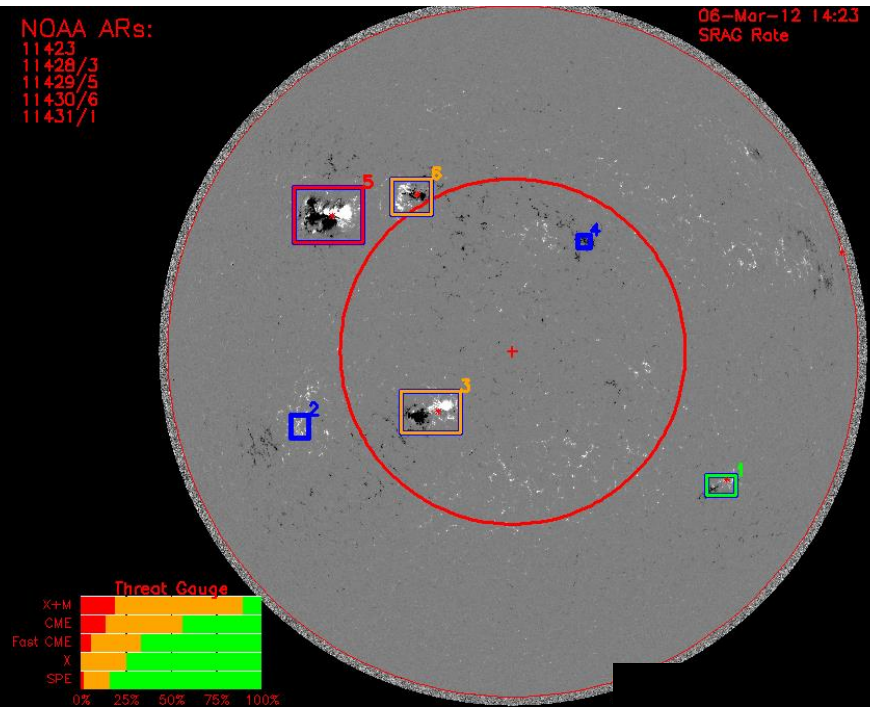
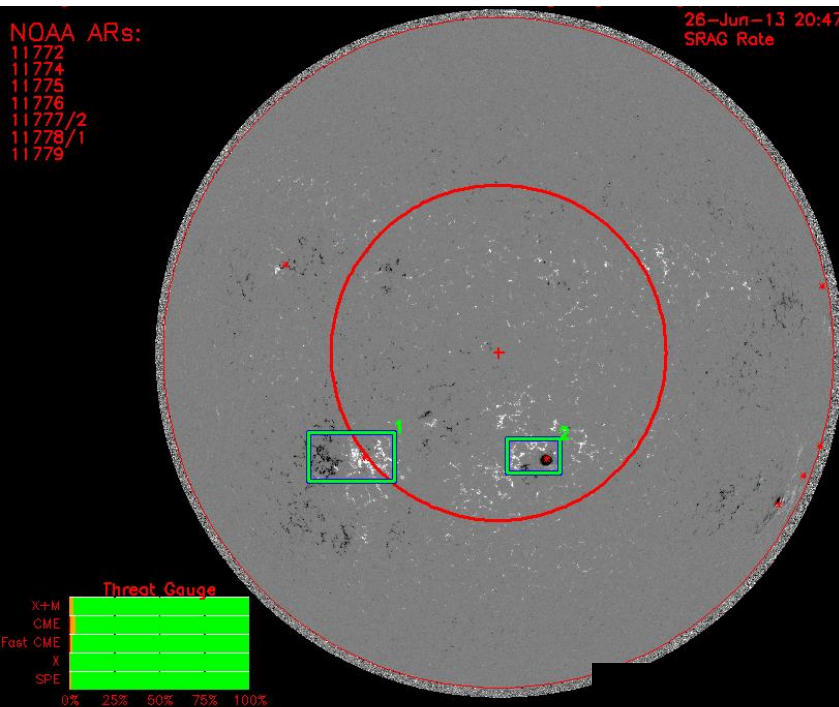
C1, C1.5 flares

March 7, 2012

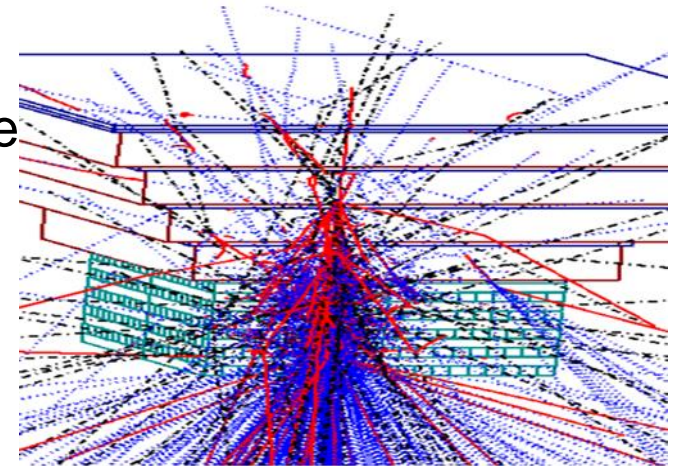
X5.4, X1.3, C1.6

CME 2684, 1825 km/sec,

Solar Energetic Proton Event reaches
6530 'particle flux unit' >10 MeV



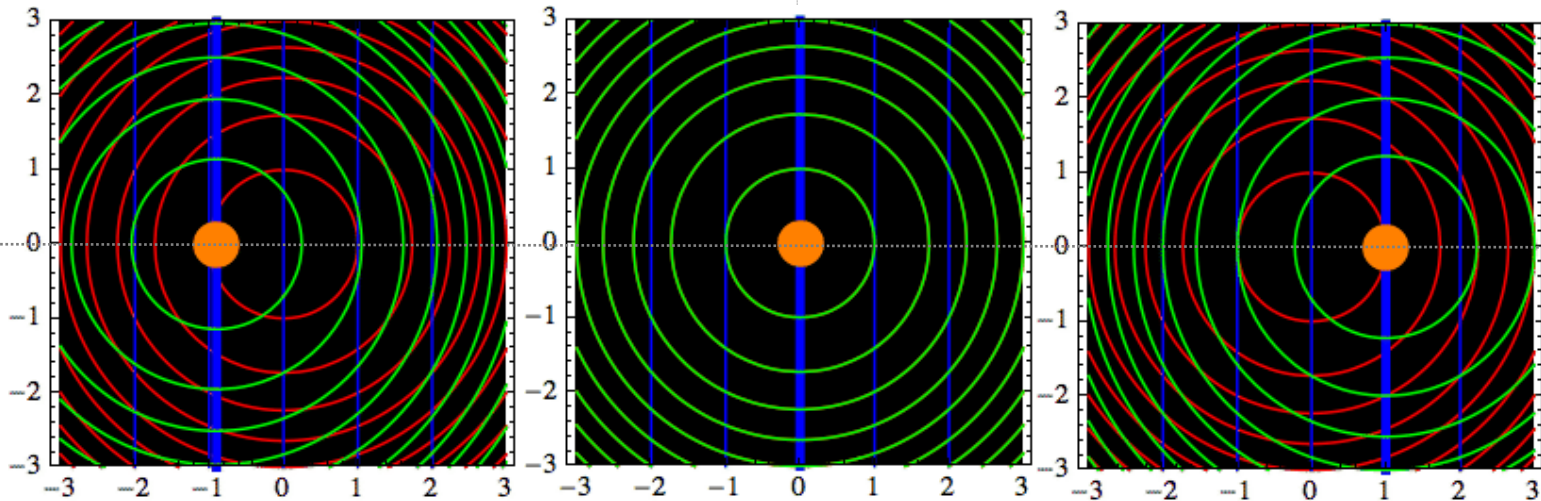
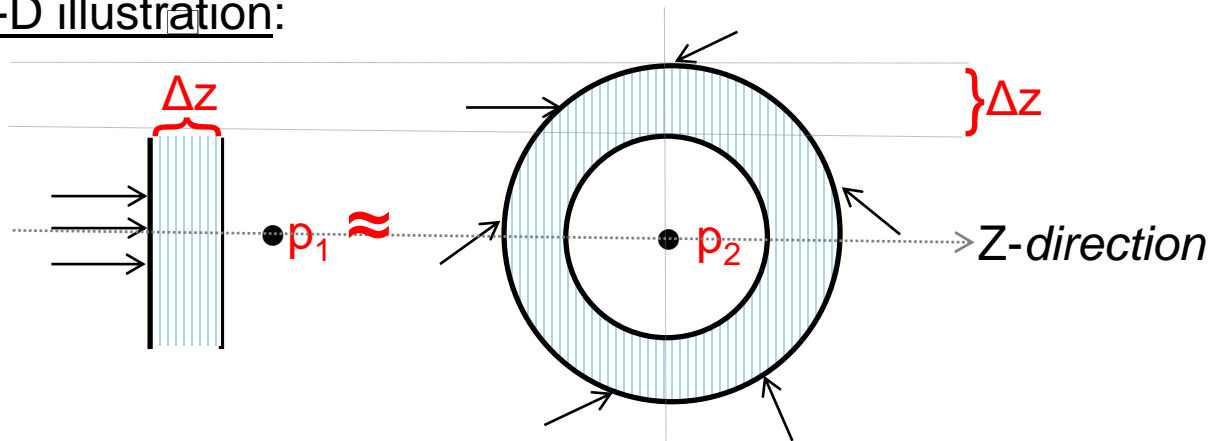
- Marshall scientists and engineers use Geant4 for the design, analysis, and development of
 - particle detector systems*
 - exposures at accelerators and in-situ*
 - dose estimates*
 - shielding solutions*
- Marshall scientists and engineers collaborate with experimental and theoretical and computational groups at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Berkeley's Lawrence National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Indiana University's Cyclotron Facility, Japan's HIMAC facility, and others for basic and applied nuclear modeling, simulation, and exposure and shielding studies

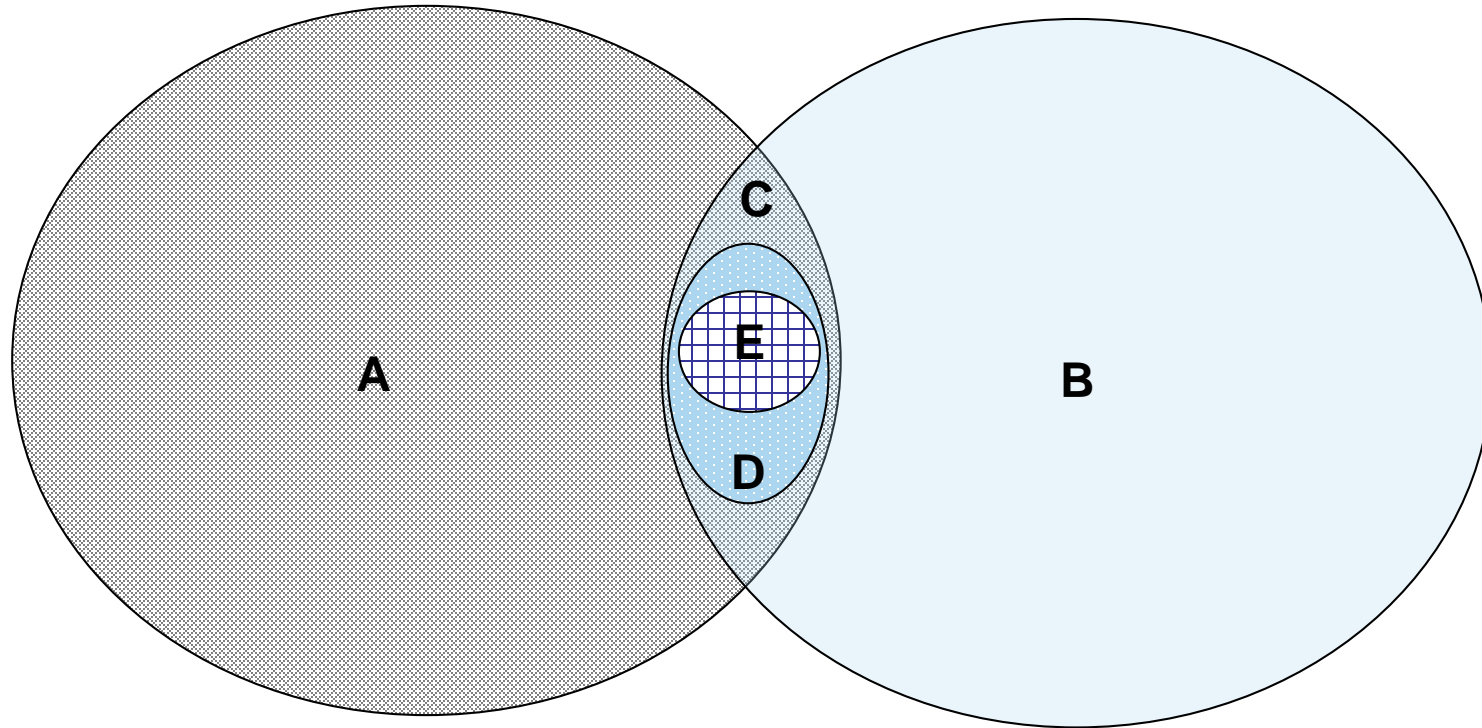


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Complex geometry and material composition -in the presence of known physical uncertainties- are expected to produce sizable errors in any radiation protection solution.

A 2-D illustration:



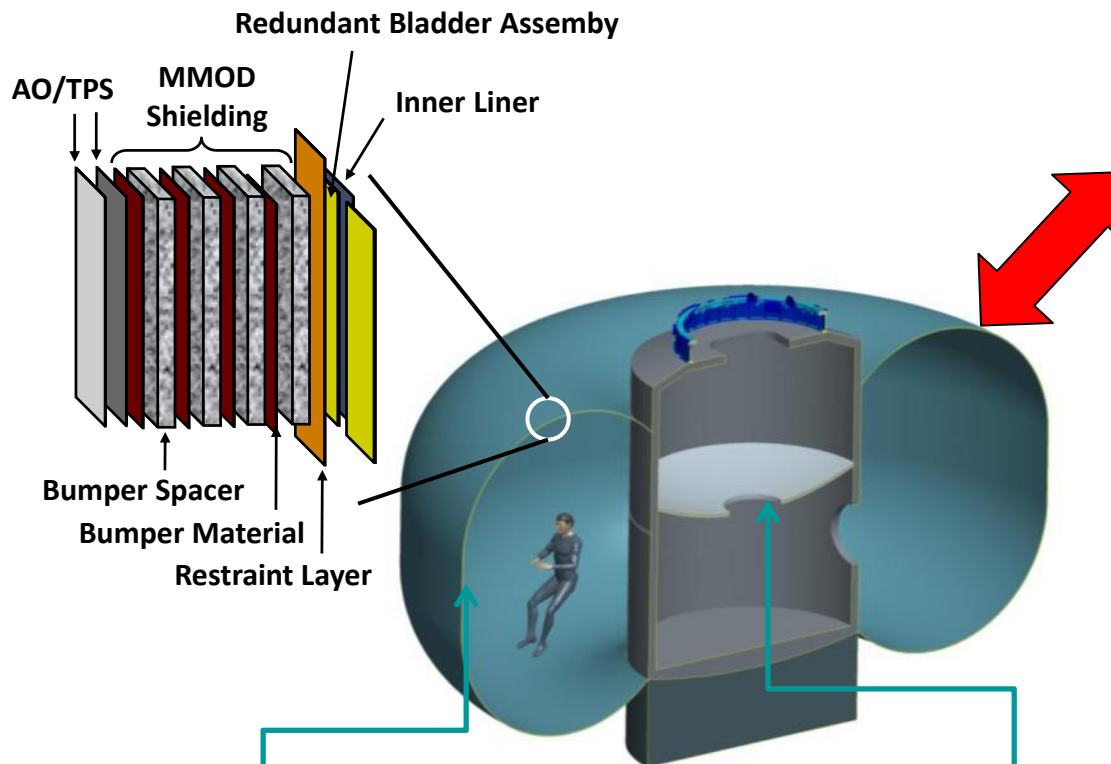


- A:** Adaptive Structures
- B:** Sensory Structures
- C:** Controlled Structures
- D:** Active Structures
- E:** Intelligent Structures

Smart Materials:
Multi-functional



Smart Designs:
Optimized

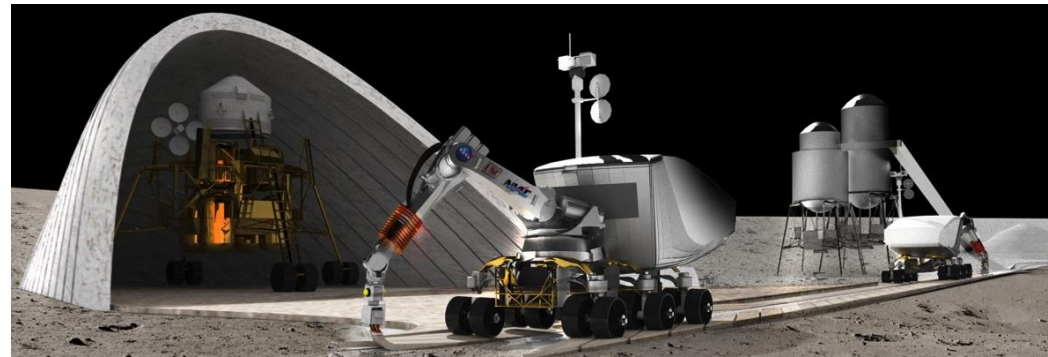
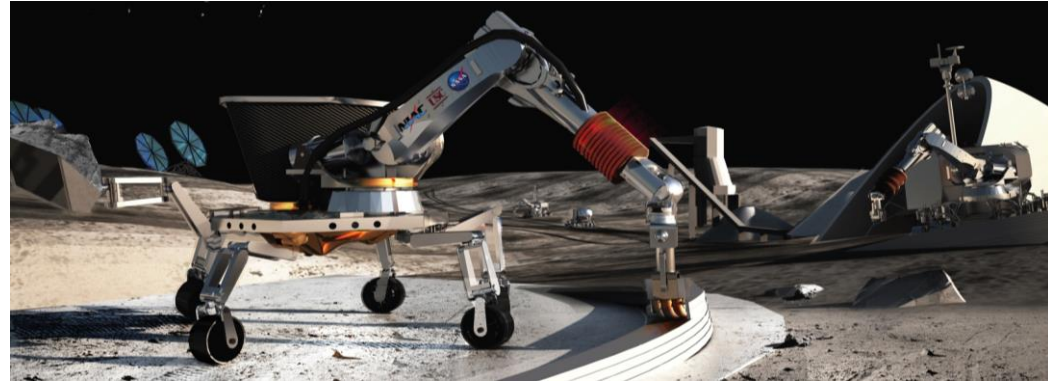


radiation shielding will most likely focus on
MMOD shielding materials and core

-NASA in collaboration with other federal agencies, FFRDC, academia, and the private sector is embarking on a new and radical way in looking at the challenges and solutions of space-radiation exposure; from the 'grounds' up

-Marshall is at the heart of this new paradigm making

-Geant4 and G4SUW are critical to the success of this new paradigm, and space-radiation solutions



Thanks for helping to make this vision become a reality...and soon!